

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DOTE-00

NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 /130 W

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R 060920Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1419

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 11884

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: ASIAN TRANSPORT WORKERS' CONFERENCE

REF: 75 TOKYO 1752

1. MINISTRY OF LABOR'S TRADE UNION SECTION HAS CONFIRMED
THAT LONG TALKED ABOUT (REFTEL) ASIAN TRANSPORT WORKERS'

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CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN TOKYO SEPTEMBER 9-19 UNDER

AUSPICES AND FINANCING OF JAPANESE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRANSPORT WORKERS UNIONS (ZENKOUN), WHICH IS LIAISON BODY EMBRACING SOHYO'S SEVERAL TRANSPORTATION UNION AFFILIATES. TRANSPORT UNION MEMBERS OF ICFTU-AFFILIATED DOMEI NOT RPT NOT INVOLVED.

2. SPONSORS HAVE RECEIVED ACCEPTANCES FROM TRANSPORT UNIONS IN AUSTRALIA, BANGLADESH, BURMA, FIJI, INDIA, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, MONGOLIA, NEW ZEALAND, NEPAL, NORTH KOREA, PHILIPPINES, SRI LANKA, THAILAND, USSR AND VIETNAM. PRC AND SINGAPORE HAVE DECLINED INVITATION, WITH CHINESE ACCOMPANYING THEIR TURNDOWN WITH MESSAGE INDICATING DESIRE TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN "FRIENDLY RELATIONS" WITH ZENKOUN. INVITATIONS WERE ALSO SENT TO, BUT NO REPLIES RECEIVED FROM, CAMBODIA, LAOS AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA. GENERAL SECRETARY OF WFTU AFFILIATED TRANSPORT WORKERS' TRADE INTERNATIONAL (TUI) AS WELL AS ASIAN REP AND TOKYO OFFICE DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' TRADE INTERNATIONAL (TUI) AS WELL AS ASIAN REP AND TOKYO OFFICE DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION (ITF) ALSO SLATED TO ATTEND AS OBSERVERS. ACCORDING TO LABOR MINISTRY, TWO U.S. UNIONS, RAILWAY CLERKS (BRAC) AND WEST COAST LONGSHOREMEN'S UNION (ILWU), HAVE ALSO BEEN INVITED BY THEIR JAPANESE COUNTERPARTS TO SEND OBSERVERS. ZENKOUN HAS BUDGETED APPROXIMATELY \$350,000 FOR MEETING AND IS COVERING ALL EXPENSES (INCLUDING AIR FARE) OF ALL DELEGATES EXCEPT THOSE FROM AUSTRALIA AND USSR (WHICH IS SENDING LARGEST CONTINGENT).

3. LABOR MINISTRY SAYS JAPANESE PRIVATE RAILWAY WORKERS (SHITETSU SOREN) VICE PRESIDENT KUROKAWA, IN CHARGE OF CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS, IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO LIMIT AGENDA TO ISSUES OF DIRECT CONCERN TO TRANSPORT WORKERS AND BELIEVES IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO AVOID DEBATE ON SUCH CONTENTIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES AS SINO-SOVIET CONFLICT AND ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY. LABOR MINISTRY UNDERSTANDS THAT KUROKAWA DOES NOT PLAN TO PUBLICIZE CONFERENCE IN JAPANESE MEDIA BECAUSE HIS COLLEAGUES IN SHITETSU SOREN, ONE OF SOHYO'S MOST CONFIDENTIAL

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MODERATE AFFILIATES, FEAR THAT SUCH PUBLICITY WILL DAMAGE FEDERATION'S IMAGE IN JAPAN AND IN WESTERN LABOR CIRCLES. LABOR MINISTRY BELIEVES THAT SOVIETS AND THEIR WFTU FRIENDS, WHO HAVE BEEN PROMOTING SUCH A GATHERING SINCE EARLY DAYS OF VIETNAM WAR, WILL PROBABLY BE SATISFIED WITH A LOW KEY NON-POLITICAL CONFERENCE SINCE THEY NOW SEEM MAINLY INTERESTED IN INCREASING THEIR CONTACTS WITH ICFTU'S ASIAN AFFILIATES AND IN IMPROVING

WFTU'S IMAGE IN ASIA.
SHOESMITH

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